



HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS
RANKING MEMBER ROSA DeLAURO

Improving Nutrition

Provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act to Help End Hunger and Promote Healthy Lifestyles

Democrats in Congress have been fighting to secure transformative federal investments to help fight inflation, lower the cost of living, support working families, create American jobs, and combat climate change.

In December 2022, Democrats in Congress secured transformative investments in the 2023 federal funding bill that help the middle class, working families, small businesses, and the vulnerable who work hard. Instead of catering to the biggest corporations and billionaires, we are tackling some of our nation's biggest challenges with major investments in food and nutrition.

Overall, the 2023 funding bill provides more than \$191 billion to help hardworking people live healthier lives. Below you will find a summary of the nutrition provisions included in these historic bills.

Agriculture-Rural Development- FDA

The fiscal year 2023 spending package provides:

- \$1.2 billion in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition to improve maternal and infant health, research and reduce chemicals and toxins in our food and continue to implement FDA's "New Era of Food Safety" to help reduce foodborne illness.
- Over \$120 million for Human Nutrition Research at the Agricultural Research Service across numerous facilities around the country.
- \$6 billion in discretionary funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), including maintaining the current level of access to fresh fruits and vegetables to 6.2 million people.
- \$154 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP, which will serve more than 43.5 million people.
- \$28.5 billion in the health of America's kids through Child Nutrition programs.

Labor-HHS-Education

- This bill includes \$1.1 billion for Senior Nutrition funded through the Administration for Community Living (ACL), an increase of \$100 million over fiscal year 2022 levels.

Military Construction & Veterans Affairs

- The \$118.7 million provided in the bill for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) Medical Care programs includes support for the work of VA's Nutrition and Food Service program that develops and provides comprehensive evidence-based nutrition services to veterans, with a staff of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists that serve as nutrition diagnosticians and medical nutrition therapists for veterans and their families.
 - The program's work includes offering group classes and individual sessions to veterans, along with VA's Healthy Teaching Kitchens, which are hands-on or virtual demonstrations that help veterans and their caregivers learn to prepare healthy dishes. The program also includes education, internships, and mentoring for future nutrition professionals and advancing nutrition practice through research and continuous quality improvement.
 - VA has also developed a robust effort to address food insecurity among veterans, which has screened over 6 million veterans since October 2017. In concert with these efforts, over 50 VA facilities also host food pantries that distribute to those in need.
- The bill provides up to \$2 million in support of produce prescription programs, which allow medical providers to prescribe fresh fruits and vegetables to individuals or households who are at-risk due to health status or income, often pairing these prescriptions with financial incentives or nutrition education resources. These funds will enable VA to provide guidance and resources for VA facilities to develop local programs and pursue strategies for patient education and outreach, as well as advance partnerships with community-based organizations and/or government entities with demonstrated experience and expertise.
- The bill provides \$85.9 million for Whole Health Initiatives, an increase of \$2.3 million above the 2022 enacted level and \$10 million above the budget request. This will enable VA to build upon the success of this program that focuses on veterans' overall health and well-being, which saw 573,940 veterans participating in 2021. The Whole Health program includes a substantial focus on nutrition as key for veterans' health.
- The bill includes report language encouraging VA to expand its plant-based menu options, including offering vegetarian and vegan meal options at every facility.

Financial Services and General Government

The fiscal year 2023 bill includes \$24 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund to support the Healthy Food Financing Initiative Awards program to provide grants to CDFIs to invest in creating healthy food options for underserved neighborhoods and food deserts.

State and Foreign Operations

The fiscal year 2023 funding bill invests \$160 million to improve global nutrition, a \$5 million increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and a \$10 million increase over the fiscal year 2023 request. Programs support nutrition interventions including reducing stunting and wasting, increasing breastfeeding and nutrition supplementation for pregnant women, promoting early childhood development, and treating severe malnutrition for the most vulnerable people in the world.